

## Quick Reference

### Town Hall Department Phone Numbers:

Administration/Selectmen	508.430.7513
Brooks Free Library	508.430.7562
Building	508.430.7506
Conservation	508.430.7539
Engineering	508.430.7508
Fire	508.430.7546
Highways/Maintenance	508.430.7555
Natural Resources	508.430.7532
NFIP / CRS Coordinator (Planning Department)	508.430.7511
Police	508.430.7541
Local Power Company	800.592.2000
Local Natural Gas	800-732-3400

TOWN OF HARWICH

<http://www.harwich-ma.gov/>

FEMA

<http://www.fema.gov/>

NFIP

<http://www.floodsmart.gov/>

HOMELAND SECURITY

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

### Flood Facts:

- Hurricanes, winter storms and snowmelt are common (but often overlooked) causes of flooding.
- New land development can increase flood risk, especially if the construction changes natural runoff paths.
- If you live in a moderate-to-low risk area you may be eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy.
- You are eligible to purchase flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

### Harwich Facts:

- Harwich voluntarily participates in the incentive CRS program and is currently rated as a **Class 8** community. This rating entitles most residents of Harwich to a **10% flood insurance discount**.

### Risk Assessment Link:

Look for the one-step risk profile tool at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

A red rectangular form titled "One-Step Flood Risk Profile" with the heading "HOW CAN I GET COVERED?". It lists three bullet points: "Rate your risk", "Estimate your premiums", and "Find an agent". Below these are input fields for "Address:", "City", "State" (with a dropdown menu labeled "State/Territory"), and "Zip code". At the bottom, there are radio buttons for "Resident?" with "Yes" selected and "No" as an option, followed by a "GO" button.

Town of Harwich

## Town of Harwich

# FLOOD PROTECTION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION RESOURCES 2016



## *Town Resources*

Significant areas of Harwich are within federally designated flood hazard areas. Flooding in any of these areas can come with little warning, depending on the severity and timing of a storm. Floods can be dangerous to humans and to property. Coastal erosion is just the first indicator of a storm's hazardous effects.

**If you are in the floodplain, this flyer provides valuable information, resources and ideas of what you can do to protect yourself and your property from flood hazards.**

The first thing you should do is to see if you are in a mapped floodplain. For an online map visit FEMA's Map Service Center: <http://msc.fema.gov>. Flood maps (FIRM) and reference materials are available through the Planning, Building, or Engineering Departments at Town Hall and reference materials are at the Brooks Free Library.

**Town of Harwich  
732 Main Street  
Harwich, MA 02645  
[www.harwich-ma.gov](http://www.harwich-ma.gov)**

**Save this brochure.**

**A complete list of local phone numbers and web links are on the last page of this brochure.**

## *Plan, Prepare and Mitigate*

### FLOOD AWARENESS

Flooding is costly and dangerous. The better able we are to communicate possible flood risk through increased public awareness the greater the actions that lead to reduced risks to life and property.

#### **Map Modernization Program on Cape Cod:**

Digital flood hazard data and maps have been recently introduced across Barnstable County that represent significant changes to previous mapping data and maps. Harwich adopted the updated maps and Floodplain By-laws effective July 16, 2014.

### FLOOD INSURANCE

#### **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):**

Flood insurance covers all surface floods. Talk to your insurance agent as homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. You may be able to purchase separate flood insurance policies for real and personal property. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded.

## FLOOD SAFETY MEASURES

### **Protecting your Property:**

- Local builders and building officials can provide information on flood-proofing, retro-fitting and re-grading your property to mitigate damage. Alterations to your property and land may require permitting.
- Do not dump or throw anything into the ditches, streams, or rivers. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Do not drive through a flooded area or around road barriers. The road or bridge may be washed out.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines.
- Hurricanes, winter storms and snowmelt are common (but often overlooked) causes of flooding.

Visit [www.floodsmart.gov/](http://www.floodsmart.gov/) and [www.fema.gov/plan](http://www.fema.gov/plan) to subscribe to updates and view available fact sheets and resource materials.